

NSC BRIEFING

10 November 1959

FRENCH A-TEST PLANS

25X1

- I. France now estimated to have all components necessary for nuclear weapons test.



- II. France sees nuclear capability/<sup>as</sup> means of enhancing international prestige and power position.
- A. Paris expects bomb to remove major distinction between France and Big Three, and bolster its demands for "equality" in summit, disarmament, and test-cessation talks.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

1. NATO Secretary General Spaak says De Gaulle admitted foot-dragging on summit until French nuclear weapon tested.

III. In UN, proposed French test is target of stiff resolution introduced by Morocco and co-sponsored by 20 other African and Asian nations.

- A. Resolution, now being debated, urges France to refrain from test.
- B. UK pushing for a milder resolution to offset support for Moroccan draft.
- C. French representatives are stressing technical arguments minimizing danger to neighboring nations.
  1. Assuming French explode device of size and type expected, area of dangerous fall-out should not extend to any population concentrations or to any territory beyond southern Algeria.
  2. Regardless of reaction in UN or elsewhere, French seem determined to proceed with testing.

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